***Dora the Explorer and Language Ideologies***

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**Language ideologies**

* “…those complex systems of ideas and interests through which people interpret linguistic behaviors” (Irvine, 1998, p. 52).
* “As people interact through language, they draw on and create ideologies about language, thereby developing linguistic worldviews or epistemologies that guide them in deciding how to speak and what to say” (Mertz, 1998, p. 151).
* Language ideologies matter for teachers because they affect instructional decisions and interactions with students.
* *Dora the Explorer* is a rich site for exploring and uncovering language ideologies because as Guidotti-Hernandez (2007) argues, “*Dora the Explorer* engages a number of competing discourses that situate her at the politically dangerous crossroads of race, citizenship, nation, and universal Latino/a subjectivity” (p. 212).

**Classroom Implications**

* Be cautious about using activities that reinforce a referential view of language such as listing definitions in isolation.
* Expand notions of what counts as language in school beyond Standard English.
* Promote critical literacy skills.
* Implement culturally relevant curriculum.
* Teacher reflection about the ideologies that influence their practice.

**Resources to Support Classroom Implications**

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